

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

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TO: THE FACULTY
FROM: H. R. Foley, Principal
RE: GUIDELINES TO LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL

MARCH 1966

The following laws and regulations relate directly or indirectly to restrictions concerning political activities on school property.

1. California Education Code -

Sections 8453 (Sectarian, partisan, or denominational publications or teachings) and 8454 (Propaganda and solicitation of funds) form the basic State law in regard to the prohibition of any participation in, or promotion of, political activity on the part of students or school employees while at school. The first paragraph of each section includes student activity.

2. Board of Education Rule 1267 is used particularly in relation to the activity of school personnel, but it applies to students as well. The first sentence is as follows:

"No political activities shall be engaged in on school premises or on school property owned by or in the possession or control of the Los Angeles City School Districts, except as provided under the Civic Center Act."

Rule 1267 has been quoted in various Superintendent's Bulletins in relation to the activity of school employees, including April 3, 1962 and September 14, 1962.

3. Use of Civic Center facilities

Board of Education Rules 1301 and 1306 describe the conditions under which school property may be used for political meetings under Civic Center regulations.

4. Rules governing student clubs

The complete set of rules governing student clubs (Rules 2260-2264) relate indirectly to off-campus political clubs. Particularly relevant are Administrative Regulations 2263-1 and 2263-2 which restrict the wearing of emblems and other forms of identifying dress. These regulations may be appropriate in the case of campaign buttons or other paraphernalia.

5. Superintendent's Bulletin No. 18 - Policy on the Study of Current Public Problems. The key paragraph in this statement is:

"It shall be the policy of the Los Angeles City Schools to provide pupils with an opportunity to study current issues in an atmosphere as free as practicable from partisanship or emotional approach. We recognize the professional responsibility of teachers to distinguish between teaching and advocating, to refrain from using classroom prestige to promote partisan or sectarian viewpoints. Rather, the teacher keeps himself well informed, aids pupils in the search for facts, and helps them to learn to think clearly in arriving at tentative conclusions about these facts."

6. According to an opinion of the County Counsel, materials publicizing outside organizations and their activities must be approved by the Board of Education before being sent home by principals.